

**UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067**

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 6, 2013, AT  
THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 10:00 a.m. by Vice Chair/Acting UAV Chairman Terry Araman, followed by Invocation by George Cushing, and the Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt-at-Arms Bob Hysko.

**Greetings - Congressman David Schweikert, R-AZ, 6<sup>th</sup> District** informed us that his office staff is available to help Arizonans with appeals issues and mortgage issues, even if you are out of district.

He remarked that 40 million Americans turned 65 in 2010, our country needs to meet its Medicare obligations. We are now 3 years past 2010, so the number of Americans eligible for Medicare is closer to 70 million.

In January the payroll tax hike took effect. There is a crisis in our country, which is at the 1979 level of the Labor Participation Rate (how many in the work force/how big is the economy). We need a big revolution in our tax code.

**Presentation: “The City of Glendale and ADVS Stand Up for Veterans” – Justin Henry**, Congressman Trent Franks’ office; and Commander of an MOPH Chapter. Justin previewed an upcoming family event on Saturday, September 28 at Glendale Community College to help veterans before they become homeless, a collaborative community event, job fair, Big Dog Run motorcycle ride. Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers is on board. Businesses will be donating food. ADVS is helping with funds. Volunteers are needed. Web site will soon be developed.

**Presentation: “Berceli Foundation’s Tension and Trauma Releasing Exercises” – Sue Shifman**, CTRE, RYT, YT

In the 1980s, Founder David Berceli while a peacekeeper serving in Africa observed physical responses to trauma and developed 6 exercises which are self-initiated and self-regulated. TRE (Trauma Releasing Exercises) is being taught to veterans.

For more information, contact Sue Shifman, 480.861.7781, email: [relaxingnaturally@gmail.com](mailto:relaxingnaturally@gmail.com), web site: [www.relaxingnaturally.com](http://www.relaxingnaturally.com)

**ROLL CALL:** Roll call taken, quorum certified.

**MARCH 2, 2013 MINUTES:** Motion to approve by Secretary Carol Culbertson, seconded by George Cushing. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** will be presented by **Treasurer John Burden** at the **May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting** due to the Treasurer being away in Hawaii.

**SICKNESS AND DISTRESS:** **Chaplain Bo Bohach** reported the passing on March 2<sup>nd</sup> of Past UAV Chair Bill Krause who was a member of the VFW, Korean War Veterans, and the American Legion. The service is scheduled on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 am, at the NMCA where Lew Bradley will represent the KWV, George Cushing will represent the American Legion, and Terry Araman or his representative will represent UAV.

## **REPORTS:**

**1. Congressman Schweikert's Office – Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Caldwell** reported the Continuing Resolution passed, DOD has more flexibility now, and Tuition Assistance is being restored.

**2. VA Medical Center – Director Sharon Helman** updated that it was taking 200 days to get an appointment, it is now at 103 days. By July 4<sup>th</sup> Sharon expects that appointments will be made the same day the veteran phones for the appointment. New primary care doctors are coming on board. Regarding the annual Veterans Day Parade, VA employees will continue as Parade volunteers, however, Medical Center priorities are uppermost, and VA employees will no longer be on paid time to work on the Parade. Currently there are 250 vacancies at the VAMC, from housekeeper vacancies to doctor vacancies, please invite veterans to apply for these jobs. A question was asked about the Medical Center's response to winter residents seeking medical care. Sharon's reply: there are 2 PAC (patient-aligned core) teams to handle unassigned & winter residents. There was feedback that VA employees in the Intake area, West Valley clinic, were observed to be rude and obnoxious. Sharon thanked the complainant for the feedback, she will check it out. There was feedback that someone had phoned Sharon but could not get through the VAMC switchboard to Sharon's office. Sharon will look into this, she indicated she will phone her office from an outside line and see what happens. Sharon brought VA fact sheets to share. Contact data for Sharon: phone 602.604.3914, email: [Sharon.helman@va.gov](mailto:Sharon.helman@va.gov)

**Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services: Mike Klier, Assistant Deputy Director – Veterans Services, AZDVS,** updated us that Mike Espinoza, Dept of Labor, is finding jobs for veterans, Sean Price and Travis Schulte continue to help homeless veterans, VBCs/veterans benefits counselors continue to serve in 16 offices, a female VBC has been hired in Tucson.

There is a VA SEP/Stakeholder Enterprise Portal program for veterans who live in remote areas. The SEP is a single, secure entry portal that provides VA partner organizations and external stakeholders access to the web-based systems they need to assist Veterans, Reservists, members of the National Guard, and their dependents.

The Camp Navajo Plan is approved, the Tucson Veteran Home Bldg 5 Alzheimer's Unit will be opening soon. A reminder, based on its veterans population of 600,000, Arizona qualifies for 5 cemeteries and 4 veteran homes; the state has 2 veteran homes, one State cemetery in Sierra Vista, and one being built at Camp Navajo.

Robert Frank is the new Training Officer at AZDVS.

A MIAP/Missing in America Project ceremony is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> in Tucson.

Regarding the Veterans' Donation Fund grants, Mike clarified that organizations applying for a grant must be a 501C charitable organization which includes 501©(19) veterans organizations. (Anyone needing the February 2013 ADVS Update email, Page 9, Veterans' Donation Fund Grants, please contact Secretary Culbertson at email: [claudehc@yahoo.com](mailto:claudehc@yahoo.com)). Contact data for Mike Klier: [Mklier@azdvs.gov](mailto:Mklier@azdvs.gov), tel. 602.255.3373.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Request to Join UAV - Veterans for Veterans.** At the March 2<sup>nd</sup> UAV Meeting, the UAV Board recommended membership for the Veterans for Veterans organization. However, a vote by the body was inadvertently overlooked. Motion made by Judy Hatch, seconded by Lew Bradley. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**1. Change in Directorship at AZDVS - Acting Chair Araman** explained the circumstances which led to Director Joey Strickland's resignation from his Director's position. Everyone is upset, many demanding that letters be sent to the Governor asking her to dismiss his resignation letter and reinstate him. Phone calls have been made to many community leaders. Several petitions are already circulating via email. Motion made by Art Sloane and seconded by Gene Crego for UAV to send a Letter of Support to the Governor. (Update: the Letter was prepared by Acting Chair Araman and delivered to the Governor's Office on April 9th. The Letter was shared with UAV members on April 10th).

Motion was made by David Lucier, seconded by Gene Crego to form an ad hoc committee to focus efforts on this issue. Terry Araman, Dan Caldwell and Phil Hanson also volunteered to serve on this ad hoc committee. Motion carried.

**2. Nominations to the AVHOF – The postmark deadline for the AVHOF Class of 2013 is Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.** Criteria, Guidelines, and where to mail the Nomination is described on the Nomination Form.

**3. Nominations to the AVHOF Arizona Veterans Award (William Owen "Bucky" O'Neill Award) – The postmark deadline is Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.** Criteria, Guidelines, and where to mail the Nomination is described on the Nomination Form.

**4. Nominations to the AVHOF Copper Shield Award (Legislator of the Year Award) - The postmark deadline is Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> .** Criteria, Guidelines, and where to mail the Nomination is described on the Nomination Form.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**1. Red Shirts – Art Sloane.** See Art Sloane to purchase red shirts in support of Arizona StandDown. Next StandDown: next weekend (April 13<sup>th</sup>) - Pinal County; May 17: Flagstaff.

**2. Grand Veterans Village, 3400 NW Grand Avenue, Phoenix 85017 (at Indian School Road) – John Scott, US Vets Initiative.** 30 units ready for occupancy: veteran friendly environment, permanent supportive housing, clinical services, case management, life skills development, on-site recreation & pool, health & wellness clinic, newly renovated rooms with kitchenettes, central Phoenix location near VAMC and bus lines, \$450-\$650. To contact the Outreach Team: 602.717.0206, 602.757.9723.

**3. April 17 – Gene Crego will be attending a Vietnam Veterans of America conference including “storming the Hill,”**

**4. April 21 – Veterans Heritage Project – Annual Book Signing at the ASU West campus, keynote speaker: Dr. Michael Crow, President, ASU.**

**5. April 28, 8:30 am - Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day at Wesley Bolin Plaza**

**6. Saturday, May 18 – Military Women Program & Luncheon at the VAMC ACC Basement Conference Center. The WAVES NATIONAL/Women of the Sea Services Caribbean Cruise will be 2014. Point of Contact: Sharon Woods at: [sharonwds1124@q.com](mailto:sharonwds1124@q.com)**

**6. Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2013: Funds are needed and welcome.** Point of contact: Mel Brody, Treasurer, Memorial Day Committee, 8989 N. Gainey Center Drive, #146, Scottsdale 85258. Make checks payable to: “Memorial Day Committee of Arizona.”

**5. 50/50 Raffle Winner: Webb Ellis, \$37; UAV Treasury \$38.**

**Next Meeting: Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall on the Second Floor, 10 am to Noon.**

Closing prayer was given by George Cushing.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/CAROL CULBERTSON  
Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans  
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Office/fax: 602.943.7834